

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-29. (Cancelled).

30. (Previously presented) A soluble polypeptide of the subtilisin-kexin isoenzyme SKI-1 set forth in SEQ ID NO: 6, wherein the soluble polypeptide consists of amino acids 187 to 996 of SEQ ID NO: 6.

31. (Previously presented) A polypeptide of the subtilisin-kexin isoenzyme SKI-1 set forth in SEQ ID NO: 6, wherein the soluble polypeptide consists of amino acids 17 to 137 of SEQ ID NO: 6, which is capable of binding with amino acids 17 to 1052 of SKI-1.

32-35. (Cancelled).

36. (Currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid encoding a the polypeptide as defined in claim 30.

37. (Currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid encoding a the polypeptide as defined in claim 31.

38-39. (Cancelled).

40. (Previously presented) A recombinant vector comprising the nucleic acid defined in claim 36.

41. (Previously presented) The recombinant vector of claim 40, which is an expression vector.

42. (Previously presented) The recombinant vector of claim 41, which comprises a promoter expressible in a target cell wherein expression of said nucleic acid is desirable.

43. (Previously presented) The recombinant vector of claim 42, which comprises an inducible promoter.

44. (Previously presented) A recombinant host cell comprising the recombinant vector defined in claim 40.

45. (Previously presented) A method of producing the soluble polypeptide of claim 30, which comprises the steps of:

culturing a recombinant host cell expressing a nucleic acid as defined in claim 36 in an expression-supportive culture medium; and recovering the soluble polypeptide of claim 30 in the culture medium.

46. (Previously presented) A method for cleaving a substrate for a SKI-1 enzyme, which comprises the step of:

contacting said substrate with a polypeptide consisting of amino acids 187-996 of SEQ ID NO: 6 for a time sufficient and in conditions adequate for such cleavage to occur, whereby cleavage of the substrate occurs;

with the proviso that said substrate is not a sterol-regulatory element-binding protein (SREBP).

47. (Previously presented) A method for producing a protein or a peptide from a precursor which is an enzymatic substrate for a SKI-1 enzyme, which comprises the steps of:

- a) contacting said precursor with a polypeptide consisting of amino acids 187-996 of SEQ ID NO: 6 for a time sufficient and in conditions adequate for such cleavage to occur; and
 - b) recovering said protein or peptide;
- with the proviso that said substrate is not a sterol-regulatory element-binding protein (SREBP).

48. (Previously presented) The method of claim 47, which takes place in a cell and wherein step a) comprises the step of transfecting a cell with a nucleic acid expressing said SKI-1 enzyme.

49. (Previously presented) The method of claim 48, wherein said cell expresses said precursor or is transfected with a nucleic acid expressing said precursor.

50-52. (Cancelled).

53. (Previously presented) A peptide which comprises the sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 13.

54-55. (Cancelled).

56. (Previously presented) A peptide as defined in claim 53, the amino acid sequence of which consists of the sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 14.

57-64. (Cancelled).

65. (Currently amended) A composition comprising a the polypeptide as defined in claim 30.

66. (Cancelled).

67. (Currently amended) A composition comprising a the polypeptide ~~of a SKI-1~~ as defined in claim 31.

68-71. (Cancelled).

72. (Previously presented) A composition comprising a nucleic acid as defined in claim 36.

73. (Previously presented) A composition comprising a nucleic acid as defined in claim 37.

74-79. (Cancelled).

80. (Previously presented) A composition comprising a recombinant vector as defined in claim 40.

81. (Previously presented) A composition comprising a recombinant vector as defined in claim 41.

82. (Previously presented) A composition comprising a recombinant vector as defined in claim 42.

83. (Previously presented) A composition comprising a recombinant vector as defined in claim 43.

84-94. (Cancelled).

95. (Previously presented) A purified polypeptide, the amino acid sequence of which consists of amino acids 18 to 188 of SEQ ID NO: 6.

96. (Previously presented) A purified polypeptide, the amino acid sequence of which consists of amino acids 18 to 196 of SEQ ID NO: 6.

97. (Previously presented) A purified polypeptide, the amino acid sequence of which consists of amino acids 18 to 169 of SEQ ID NO: 6.

98-100. (Cancelled).

101. (Previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid encoding the polypeptide of claim 95.

102. (Previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid encoding the polypeptide of claim 96.

103. (Previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid encoding the polypeptide of claim 97.

104-106. (Cancelled).

107. (Previously presented) A composition comprising the polypeptide of claim 95.

108. (Previously presented) A composition comprising the polypeptide of claim 96.

109. (Previously presented) A composition comprising the polypeptide of claim 97.

110-116. (Cancelled).

117. (Previously presented) A recombinant vector comprising the isolated nucleic acid defined in claim 101.

118. (Previously presented) A recombinant vector comprising the isolated nucleic acid defined in claim 102.

119. (Previously presented) A recombinant vector comprising the isolated nucleic acid defined in claim 103.

120-127. (Cancelled).